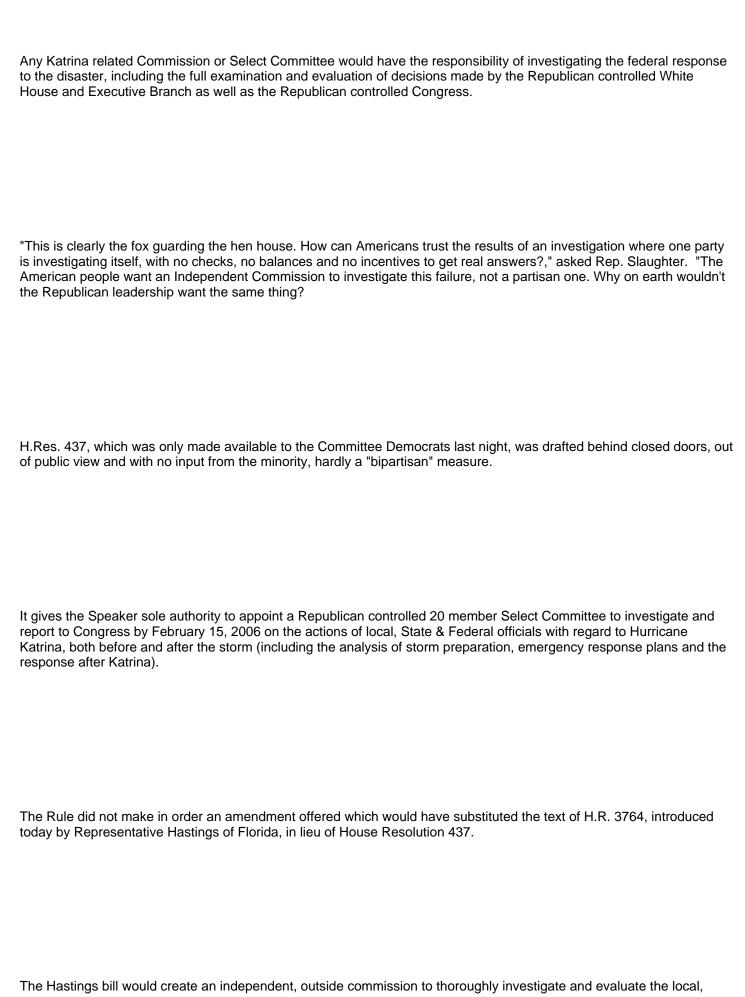
Sept 15 2005 - Rules Committee Releases

Rules Committee Releases
Report on Katrina Investigation
Republican Leadership Rejects Independent Katrina Panel;
Opts for Republican Controlled Investigation Instead
Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, and the other Democratic members of the Committee, released a report compiled by the Minority Staff of the House Rules Committee on the need for an independent commission, modeled after the successful and widely respected 9/11 Commission, to investigate the Hurricane Katrina disaster response.
A copy of the report is attached.
The report, officially titled "Views of the Democratic Members of the House Rules Committee in Support of the Creation of an Independent Commission on Hurricane Katrina," was entered into the record of the House Rules Committee meeting late last night, where the Republicans voted unanimously to prevent the full House from considering a measure which would create an independent commission to investigate Katrina.
They opted instead to forward a resolution to the House floor which creates a heavily weighted, Republican controlled panel where only Republicans have the power to issue subpoenas.

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state and Federal government's response to the events prior to, during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
Furthermore, the Independent Commission Hastings bill, which has the support and co-sponsorship of more than 160 members of this House, is also the choice of the overwhelming majority of the American people. A recent ABC/Washington Post poll found that nearly 72% of Americans preferred that a commission of outside experts instead of a partisan committee investigate the devastating events surrounding Hurricane Katrina.

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